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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
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Marketing Reports Division
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS
Week ending January 5, 1945

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Oranges: Small sizes in the Northwest declined in price to as low as \$4.25 per box for good stock. Large sizes remained at full ceilings.

Carlot movement this season to date 24,008 cars, last season to same date 24,560 cars. Shipments from the Western Region past week 1,148 cars, and from all U. S. shipping points 2,142 cars.

Apples: Total carlot shipments continue to show increases this season above those of last year, 1944 to date 34,104 cars, an increase of 42.6 percent above last season's shipments of 23,913 cars. U. S. production for 1944 is estimated at 124,212,000 bu., compared with 89,050,000 bu. in 1943, and 128,273,000 bu. in 1942. Production in the Western Region this year is estimated at 42,967,000 bu., 1 percent above the 1933-42 average, and 19.8 percent above the 1943 production.

Prices on the western wholesale markets were still at ceiling for the better grades, and demand continued strong during the week.

Potatoes: To date this season shipments by rail from Idaho total 21,502 cars, last season same date 21,175 cars. Total carlot movement for the U. S. to date, 175,055 cars, last year 189,106 cars.

Demand fob shipping points remained good and prices were at ceiling. Wholesale prices on western wholesale markets for Idaho Russets closed the week at \$3.27 to \$3.50 per 100 pounds U. S. #1 size A stock.

Carrots: 1944 winter acreage Western Region was 13,000 acres, U. S. 33,100 acres. 1945 preliminary estimates increase Western Region acreage by 15 percent and the U. S. by approximately 12 percent.

Total carlot shipments last year to this date 2,607 cars, this season to date 3,675 cars. Wholesale prices western markets ranged at close of week \$3.50 to \$4.25 per crate of 6 dozen bunches good stock. Highest prices were in the Northwest.

Lettuce: Carlot movement increased past week to 1,798 cars, bringing seasons total to 14,681 cars compared with 14,355 cars last season to same date. Increased acreage in the Arizona and Imperial Valley, California, sections will probably result in heavier seasonal and final shipments of the winter crop.

Imperial Valley and Arizona 4 dozen dry pack stock closed the week on a wide range in prices on the western wholesale markets, best stock was quoted \$3.00 to \$5.17 per crate. "Holdovers" and poorer grades went as low as \$1.00 per crate.

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter: Demand very much in excess of production and receipts. Western markets in more critical condition than middlewest and eastern markets. Low point in available civilian supplies on western markets apparently not yet reached. Continued favorable weather on west coast improving pasture and feed conditions.

Eggs: Top quality on all markets still short of demand. Eastern markets found dealers in some instances with slightly heavier supplies than anticipated, hence ceilings not being pressed. On western markets buying pressure was heavy. Southwest was particularly short on supplies, while the Northwest was more nearly balanced on demand and supplies.

Poultry: Revised MPR 269 became effective January 1, 1945, making prices the same for all sizes of broilers, fryers, roasters and light capons, in Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada and Arizona.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Cattle: Top prices on the four western livestock markets for the past week ranged from \$14.00 to \$16.00 on good to choice fed steers, with San Francisco at the top of the range.

Receipts on the western markets were up 7 percent for the week over the previous week, total 13,260 head. The twelve principal markets received 212,500 head, an increase of 54 percent above the previous week, but a decrease of 5 percent from the corresponding week a year ago.

Hogs: Support weight hogs remained throughout the week at permissible ceilings on western markets as receipts continued to decline to 9,882 head for the week, 3.6 percent below the previous week. The twelve principal markets were up 71 percent in receipts above the previous week, making a total 378,600 head, but were down 79 percent from the corresponding week last year.

Sheep: Receipts the past week were 12,977 head on the western markets, and 228,500 head on the twelve principal markets, 16 percent and 58 percent respectively above the previous week's receipts. However, the twelve principal markets were below the same week a year ago by 21 percent. Top prices on the western markets ranged \$13.75 to \$15.00, for Good to Choice stock.

Wool: The Quartermaster Corps has asked for bids on 8,386,000 yards of woolen cloth and on 3,570,000 blankets. Delivery is to be made during the first half of 1945. For the cloth, bids are to be made on basis of either 100 percent domestic wool, 100 percent foreign wool, or 50 percent of each. Bids on the blankets are to be based on the use of either 100 percent domestic wool, or 30 percent domestic and 70 percent foreign wool.

GRAIN PRODUCTS

Wheat: California markets fluctuated slightly as the result of CCC sales. For the most part, however, prices remained near ceilings and growers were offering rather slowly. Prices at the close of the week on California grown wheat in San Francisco were \$1.75½ to \$1.77 per bu., in Los Angeles \$1.69½ to \$1.72½ per bu. and in the Northwest Soft White and Western Red were \$1.54½ to \$1.55 per bu.

Barley: Prices on the West Coast advanced, especially in San Francisco where the advance was much as 5 cents per cwt., resulting from large purchases for governmental agencies. Good feed barley testing 44 pounds sold at \$2.47 $\frac{1}{2}$ to \$2.50 per cwt sacked basis.

COTTON

Prices for spot middling 15/16" closed the week at 21.81 cents per pound on the ten markets, compared with 21.72 the previous Friday and 20.13 a year ago. Mid-December prices received by farmers, while below parity, were higher than a month earlier.

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